

METHOD OF MANUFACTURING METAL-OXIDE-SEMICONDUCTOR
TRANSISTOR

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method of manufacturing a metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor.

10

Description of the Related Art

[0002] At present, metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor is one of the major electronic devices of a semiconductor device. In a MOS transistor, spacers on the sidewalls of a gate structure are often fabricated using a dielectric material. To 15 fabricate silicon nitride spacers, silane or dichlorosilane are introduced into a reaction chamber and then heated so that the silane or dichlorosilane reacts with ammonia to form a silicon nitride layer over the substrate to cover the MOS transistor and the gate structure. Thereafter, the silicon nitride layer is etched to form spacers on each side of the gate structure. However, the aforementioned method of forming the silicon nitride 20 layer has a high thermal budget and is rather unsuitable for fabricating the next generation of MOS transistor (having a line width 45/65nm). Hence, another silicon nitride deposition process that uses hexachlorosilane (HCD) as a precursor material has been developed. Using HCD as a precursor material not only reduces overall thermal

budget of the process, but also reduces the amount of hydrogen and produces a layer with a good step coverage and a low loading effect.

[0003] Nevertheless, using HCD as a precursor material to deposit a silicon nitride layer followed by etching to form spacers has one major disadvantage. When a 5 pre-cleaning operation using a diluted hydrofluoric acid solution (0.01%) for a metal silicide process is carried out, the etching rate is almost 3 times of a silicon nitride layer formed by reacting silane with ammonia in a conventional rapid thermal chemical vapor deposition (RTCVD) process and almost 6 times of a silicon nitride layer formed by reacting dichlorosilane with ammonia in a conventional deposition process. In other 10 words, the silicon nitride layer formed using HCD as a precursor material may encounter control problems in a pre-cleaning or other wet etching process. If the process is not monitored carefully, the silicon nitride spacers can be over-etched leading to a drop in device performance and/or production yield.

15

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Accordingly, at least one objective of the present invention is to provide a method of manufacturing a metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor capable of producing spacers with a greater wet etching resistance while maintaining a constant etching selectivity ratio relative to other films in a dry etching operation.

20 [0005] Another objective of the present invention is to provide a method of manufacturing a MOS transistor capable of reducing the sheet resistance of source/drain extension regions of the MOS transistor so that the source/drain extension regions can have an abrupt profile.

[0006] Another objective of the present invention is to provide a method of manufacturing a MOS transistor capable of reducing the out-diffusion of dopants in source/drain extension regions and source/drain regions of the MOS transistor so that transient enhanced diffusion effect is minimized.

5 [0007] To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, the invention provides a method of manufacturing a metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor. First, a substrate having a gate structure thereon is provided. A source/drain extension region is formed in the substrate on each side of the gate structure. Thereafter, a 10 carbon-containing material layer is formed over the substrate and then the carbon-containing material layer is etched back to form spacers on the sidewalls of the gate structure. Finally, a source/drain region is formed in the substrate on each side of the spacer-coated gate structure.

[0008] In one embodiment of the present invention, the carbon-containing 15 material layer is formed by performing a deposition process. In the deposition process, hexachlorosilane (HCD) and ethylene (C₂H₄) are used as a precursor material to impregnate the material layer with carbon. In another embodiment of the present invention, the carbon-containing material layer is formed using bis(tert-butylamino)silane (BTBAS) as the precursor material.

20 [0009] According to another embodiment of the present invention, the carbon-containing material layer is formed by depositing a material layer over the substrate and then doping carbon ions into the material layer.

[0010] The method of manufacturing MOS transistor according to the present invention produces spacers with carbon atoms therein so that etching resistance of the

spacers in a pre-cleaning operation of the metal silicide process or other wet etching operation is enhanced without affecting the etching selectivity ratio relative to other film layers in a dry etching operation.

[0011] Furthermore, the manufacturing process of the present invention
5 produces a material layer and subsequently formed spacers with carbon. The carbon
forms a barrier layer to the source/drain terminal on the surface of the substrate so that
out-diffusion of dopants from the source/drain extension regions and the source/drain
regions is minimized.

[0012] Because the spacers of the MOS transistor contains carbon, sheet
10 resistance of the source/drain extension regions is reduced so that the source/drain
extension regions can have an abrupt profile.

[0013] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the
following detailed description are exemplary, and are intended to provide further
explanation of the invention as claimed.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further
understanding of the invention, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this
specification. The following drawings illustrate embodiments of the invention and,
20 together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0015] Figs. 1A through 1C are schematic cross-sectional views showing the
steps of fabricating a MOS transistor according to a first preferred embodiment of this
invention.

[0016] Figs. 2A and 2B are schematic cross-sectional views showing the steps of fabricating a MOS transistor according to a third preferred embodiment of this invention.

[0017] Fig. 3 is a graph showing characteristic properties of the silicon nitride spacers fabricated according to the first embodiment of this invention.

[0018] Fig. 4 is a bar chart showing the etching selectivity ratio in a dry etching operation between a silicon nitride spacer fabricated according to the first embodiment of this invention and a TEOS layer as well as a silicon nitride spacer formed by the conventional method and a TEOS layer.

10

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0019] Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used in the drawings and the description to refer to the same or like parts.

[0020] Figs. 1A through 1C are schematic cross-sectional views showing the steps for fabricating a MOS transistor according to a first preferred embodiment of this invention. As shown in Fig. 1A, a substrate 100 having a gate structure 102 thereon is provided. The substrate 100 is a silicon substrate, for example. A source/drain extension region 106 is formed in the substrate 100 on each side of the gate structure 102. Thereafter, a conformal liner layer 104 is formed over the substrate 100. The liner layer 104 is a silicon oxide layer formed, for example, by performing a thermal oxidation or a chemical vapor deposition process. The source/drain extension regions 106 can be doped with N-type dopants or P-type dopants according to the conductive

type of the device. To produce N-type source/drain extension regions, arsenic ions are commonly used. On the other hand, to produce P-type source/drain regions, boron fluoride ions are commonly used. The source/drain regions 106 are formed, for example, by performing an ion implantation such that ions are implanted into the 5 substrate 100 on each side of the gate structure 102 using the gate structure 102 as a mask.

[0021] As shown in Fig. 1B, a carbon-containing material layer 108 is formed over the liner layer 104. The carbon-containing material layer 108 is a silicon nitride layer formed, for example, by performing a chemical vapor deposition process. To 10 form the carbon-containing silicon nitride layer (the material layer 108), the substrate 100 is placed inside a reaction chamber (not shown) and then gaseous ammonia, nitrogen, ethylene and hexachlorosilane (HCD) are introduced into the reaction chamber so that the gases react with each other. The ethylene and the HCD serve as a precursor material in the silicon nitride deposition process.

[0022] In the chemical vapor deposition process, the pressure inside the reaction chamber is set to a value between 0.2 torr to 2.5 torr and the temperature is set to a temperature between 450°C to 600°C, for example. In addition, the ratio between HCD and ammonia by volume is set to a value between 2.5% to 8%, for example. The flow rate of ethylene is set to a value between 100sccm to 1200sccm and the flow rate 20 of nitrogen is set to a value between 300sccm to 1800sccm, for example. The flow rate of ammonia is preferably set to 180sccm. The flow rate of HCD is set to a value between 12sccm to 20sccm, preferably at 15sccm.

[0023] As shown in Fig. 1C, the carbon-containing material layer 108 is removed so that a spacer 108a is formed on the respective sidewalls of the gate structure

102. A portion of the carbon-containing material layer 108 can be removed, for example, by performing an anisotropic etching process to etch back the carbon-containing material layer 108. Thereafter, a source/drain region 106a is formed in the substrate 100 on each side of the spacer-coated gate structure 102. The source/drain regions 106a are formed, for example, by performing a heavy implantation of ions into the substrate 100 using the gate structure 102 and the spacers 108a as a mask. The dopants implanted into the substrate 100 can be N-type ions or P-type ions according to the conductive type of the device. If an N-type source/drain region 106a is required, phosphorus or arsenic ions are used in the implantation. On the other hand, if a P-type source/drain region 106a is required, boron or boron fluoride ions are used in the implantation. A metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) transistor is thus produced.

[0024] It should be noted that the carbon-containing material layer 108 shown in Fig. 1B can be fabricated by some other methods. In a second embodiment of the present invention, a nitride/oxide carbon-containing composite layer (not shown) is formed instead of a single carbon-containing material layer 108. To form the nitride/oxide carbon-containing composite layer, the substrate 100 is placed inside a reaction chamber and then gaseous oxygen, nitrogen, ammonia and bis(tert-butylamino)silane (BTBAS) are passed into the reaction chamber to perform a chemical vapor deposition process. The BTBAS serves as a precursor material in the nitride/oxide composite layer deposition.

[0025] In the chemical vapor deposition process, the pressure inside the reaction chamber is set to a value between 0.2 torr to 2.5 torr and the temperature is set to a temperature between 550°C to 600°C, for example. In addition, the ratio between BTBAS and ammonia by volume is set to a value between 15% to 25% and the ratio

between BTBAS and oxygen by volume is set to a value between 10% to 30%, for example. The flow rate nitrogen is set to a value between 110sccm to 200sccm and the flow rate of BTBAS is set to a value between 75sccm to 110sccm.

[0026] In the aforementioned embodiments, the precursor material in the chemical vapor deposition process has a high carbon content for forming a carbon-containing material layer over the substrate. However, aside from the two aforementioned deposition processes, the present invention also provides another method of manufacturing a MOS transistor equally capable of forming a carbon-containing material layer so that carbon-containing spacers can be subsequently formed.

[0027] Figs. 2A and 2B are schematic cross-sectional views showing the steps of fabricating a MOS transistor according to a third preferred embodiment of this invention. After forming the liner layer 104 as shown in the first embodiment, a material layer 107 is formed over the substrate 100 as shown in Fig. 2A. The material layer 107 is formed, for example, by placing the substrate 100 inside a reaction chamber and then introducing gaseous HCD, nitrogen and ammonia into the reaction chamber so that the gases react with each other to deposit silicon nitride over the substrate 100.

[0028] As shown in Fig. 2B, the carbon within the material layer 107 is formed by doping. For example, an ion implantation 101 is carried out to implant carbon ions into the material layer 107 to form a carbon-containing material layer 108.

[0029] Subsequent steps after forming the carbon-containing material layer 108 are identical to the one carried out in Fig. 1C in the first embodiment. Thus, description of the process is not repeated here.

[0030] In the first embodiment of the present invention, ethylene is also added to the conventional HCD precursor material so that both ethylene and HCD serve as a

precursor material for forming the material layer. Hence, the process is able to reduce overall thermal budget through the HCD. Furthermore, using both HCD and ethylene as precursor materials for forming silicon nitride spacers increases etching resistance towards subsequent pre-cleaning or wet etching operations. In addition, the change 5 will not affect the etching selectivity ratio between the material layer and other film layers in any dry etching operations.

[0031] Fig. 3 is a graph showing characteristic properties of the silicon nitride spacers fabricated according to the first embodiment of this invention. As shown in Fig. 3, the horizontal axis indicates the flow rate of ethylene in the first embodiment, the 10 right vertical axis indicates the concentration of carbon in the silicon nitride spacers and the left vertical axis indicates the etching rate of the silicon nitride spacers in a wet etching operation using hydrofluoric acid solution. The curve shown by the symbol ■ represents the relationship between the flow rate of ethylene and the concentration of carbon. According to the curve, the concentration of carbon inside the silicon 15 nitride spacers is proportional to the ethylene flow rate.

[0032] In Fig. 3, the curve shown by the symbol ◆ represents the relationship between the ethylene flow rate and the etching rate of the silicon nitride spacers. According to the curve, the etching rate of the silicon nitride spacers is inversely proportional to the ethylene flow rate. In other words, the higher the amount of carbon 20 inside the silicon nitride spacers, the lower will be the etching rate of the silicon nitride spacers in a wet etching operation. Hence, the present invention is capable of reducing the etching rate of silicon nitride spacers in a wet etching operation.

[0033] Fig. 4 is a bar chart showing the etching selectivity ratio in a dry etching operation between a silicon nitride spacer fabricated according to the first embodiment

of this invention and a TEOS layer as well as a silicon nitride spacer formed by the conventional method, and a TEOS layer. As shown in Fig. 4, the silicon nitride spacers formed using ethylene with a flow rate of 300sccm or 900sccm according to the first embodiment of the invention has an etching selectivity ratio relative to TEOS almost identical to conventional silicon nitride spacers formed using dichlorosilane. In other words, using ethylene and HCD as precursor materials in fabricating the silicon nitride spacers not only reduces the etching rate in a wet etching operation, but can also maintain a constant etching selectivity ratio between the silicon nitride spacers and other film layers in a dry etching operation.

[0034] Furthermore, the carbon atoms within the spacers formed by adding ethylene in the spacer fabrication process may diffuse into the junction area (the oxide/silicon interface) between the liner layer and the substrate to serve as a barrier layer for the source/drain terminal. Hence, the amount of dopants such as boron ions diffusing from the source/drain terminal towards deeper areas of the substrate and the sheet resistance of the source/drain extension regions are reduced. Moreover, the source/drain extension regions can have an abrupt profile. In particular, increasing the carbon content within the material layer can reduce the dielectric constant; therefore the material layer can be used as a dielectric material in a backend process.

[0035] The BTBAS serves as a precursor material in the material layer deposition process in the second embodiment and the implantation of carbon ions into the material layer changes the material layer into a carbon-containing material layer in the third embodiment of present invention. The carbon-containing spacers in the MOS transistor formed by either method similarly have the aforementioned advantages.

[0036] Table 1 below shows some experimental data on the depth of the source/drain extension regions in the substrate and associated sheet resistance between a MOS transistor formed by the first embodiment of present invention and the MOS transistor formed by the conventional process.

5

Table 1

	Dopant Parameters	Spacer Parameters	Annealing Temperature (°C)	Junction Depth (nm)	Sheet Resistance (Ohm/sq)
Condition (1)	BF ₂ , 1KeV	SiH ₄ + NH ₃	1075	24	5050
Condition (2)	BF ₂ , 1KeV	HCD	1075	24	4168
Condition (3)	BF ₂ , 1KeV	HCD + Ethylene (300sccm)	1075	24	1836
Condition (4)	BF ₂ , 1KeV	HCD + Ethylene (900sccm)	1075	24	1772

[0037] As shown in Table 1, the source/drain extension regions of the MOS transistor is formed by implanting BF₂ ions into the substrate at a concentration of about 10 1.5×10¹⁵ atom/cm³ and at an energy level of about 1KeV for all the conditions listed from (1) to (4). In condition (1), the spacers are formed in a conventional reaction

between silane and ammonia. In condition (2), HCD serves as a precursor material in the spacer deposition process. In condition (3) and (4), HCD and ethylene are used as the precursor materials. However, the flow rate of ethylene is 300sccm in condition (3) while the flow rate of ethylene is 900sccm in condition (4). According to the 5 experimental results from Table 1, sheet resistance of the source/drain extension regions drops with an increase in the ethylene flow rate. Thus, using ethylene as a precursor material in the spacer deposition process can lower the sheet resistance of the source/drain extension regions and boost the electrical performance of the MOS transistor.

10 [0038] In the aforementioned embodiments, the fabrication of a typical MOS transistor is used in the illustration. However, the application of present invention can be applied to other MOS transistor fabrication processes. For example, the present invention can be applied to a MOS transistor fabrication process using a pre-amorphization implantation method. The aforementioned MOS transistor fabrication 15 process at least comprises following steps: a pre-amorphization implantation process is performed to a substrate with a gate structure thereon to form an amorphized region in the substrate, a source/drain extension regions is formed in the amorphized region on each side of the gate structure, and then a carbon-containing spacer is formed on each sidewall of the gate structure, a source/drain regions is formed in the amorphized region 20 on each side of the spacer-coated gate structure. Thereafter, a solid phase epitaxial process is carried out to form crystals in the amorphized region so that the dopants within the source/drain extension regions and the source/drain regions are activated to form the source/drain terminals.

[0039] In summary, the method of manufacturing a MOS transistor according to present invention has the following advantages:

1. The spacers in the MOS transistor has greater resistance against etching in pre-cleaning operation of a metal silicide process or other wet etching operation but can maintain almost identical etching selectivity ratio between the spacers and other film layers in dry etching operations.
2. Within the source/drain extension regions, the source/drain extension regions have a lower sheet resistance and an abrupt profile to boost the electrical performance of the device.
- 10 3. The carbon atoms within the material layer or subsequently formed spacers form a barrier layer at the surface of the substrate so that dopants diffusing out from the source/drain regions and the source/drain extension regions is greatly minimized.
4. The process of fabricating carbon-containing spacers according to the present invention has an equally low thermal budget as spacers formed using HCD in a conventional process.
- 15 5. Since a higher carbon content within the material layer reduces the dielectric constant of the material layer, the material layer can be used as a dielectric material in a backend process.

[0040] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the structure of the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. In view of the foregoing, it is intended that the present invention cover modifications and variations of this invention provided they fall within the scope of the following claims and their equivalents.